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Canada Fisheries Prices Support Board.

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FISHERIES PRICES SUPPORT BOARD

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ANNUAL REPORT

1947-48



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THE FISHERIES PRICES SUPPORT BOARD

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The Fisheries Prices Support Act, 1944

The Fisheries Prices Support Act was assented to August 15th, 1944.

The broad principle to be followed by the Board is stated in the following quotation from the Act:

"In prescribing prices....., the Board shall endeavour to ensure adequate and stable returns for fisheries by promoting orderly adjustment from war to peace conditions and shall endeavour to secure a fair relationship between the returns from fisheries and those from other occupations."

The Act gives the Board the usual powers of a Government corporation; provides a working fund of \$25 million; and sets out the methods which may be used to support the prices of fisheries products.

The authorized methods of price support are (a) the purchase and sale of any fisheries product, and (b) deficiency payments, equal to the amount by which the average price of a product falls below the prescribed price during a specified period. All major decisions of the Board as to products which may be eligible for price support, and levels at which prices shall be supported are subject to approval by the Governor in Council.

Organization of the Fisheries Prices Support Board

Section 9 (the Section which empowers the Board to buy and sell and to make deficiency payments) was proclaimed on July 23rd, 1947.

On the same day the Governor in Council approved the appointment of the following as members of the Board:

Acting Chairman, Mr. Stewart Bates, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Ottawa, Ont.

Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. Stanley Lee, National Sea Products Limited, Halifax, N.S.

Members, Mr. Louis Borube, School of Fisheries, Ste. Anne de la
Pocatiere, P. Q.

Mr. R. F. Harding, Fishermen's Cooperative Association,
Prince Rupert, B.C.

Col. J. W. Nicholls, British Columbia Packers Limited,
Vancouver, B.C.

The payment of \$25.00 per day to all members of the Board, excepting the Acting Chairman, in addition to actual and reasonable travelling and living expenses, for services rendered in connection with the work of the Board was authorized by Treasury Board Minute in August, 1947.

At the first meeting of the Board held in Ottawa, September 8th to 13th, 1947, and after consultation with Provincial authorities and leaders of the industry, the following were appointed to serve on Regional Advisory Committees as indicated below:

East Coast Advisory Committee

Chairman, Mr. J. H. MacKichan, United Maritime Fishermen, Halifax, N. S.
 Vice-Chairman, Mr. L. T. Blais, Louis T. Blais Limitee, Quebec, P.Q.
 Members, Captain Ben MacKenzie, Canadian Fishermen's Union, Lunenburg, N.S.
 Mr. J. B. Myrick, Myrick, McIntosh Ltd., Tignish, P.E.I.
 Mr. C. W. Richardson, Fisherman, Deer Island, N.B.

Inland Advisory Committee

Chairman, Mr. Carl F. Kolbe, W. F. Kolbe and Co. Ltd., Port Dover, Ont.
 Vice-Chairman, Mr. S. V. Sigurdson, Sigurdson Fisheries Ltd., Riverton, Man.
 Members, Mr. J. F. Gray, Saskatchewan Lake and Forest Products Corporation, Prince Albert, Sask.
 Mr. I. Purvis, James Purvis and Sons, Manitoulin Island, Ont.
 Mr. W. Schlader, McInnes Products Corp. Ltd., Edmonton, Alta.

West Coast Advisory Committee

Chairman, Mr. S. M. Rosenberg, Canadian Fishing Co. Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.
 Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. A. Sim, Fisherman, Banfield, B.C.
 Members, Mr. W. T. Burgess, Fisherman, Vancouver, B.C.
 Mr. G. Miller, United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, Vancouver, B.C.
 Mr. R. Nelson, Nelson Brothers Fisheries Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.

The payment of \$15.00 per day to all members of the Advisory Committees in addition to actual and reasonable travelling and living expenses, for services rendered in connection with the work of the Board was authorized in August, 1947.

Board Operations in 1947-48

During the year the Board commenced studies, in the field, of fishermen's incomes in the Pacific, inland and Atlantic fisheries of the country. Only five employees of the Board are engaged on this work and they have also been required to make spot inquiries on other matters of concern to the Board and the fishing industry. In addition, the Board, cooperating with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, has embarked on a survey to determine the domestic consumption of all fish and fisheries products in preparation for a comprehensive programme designed to increase this consumption. The results

from this survey should be available to the Board, the Department and the industry by September, 1948.

In February, 1948 representations were made to the Board that support was urgently needed for those branches of the East Coast canned fish industry that had specialized since the early war years in the production of such varieties as canned herring, mackerel and cod and related species. These representations were based on the following facts:

- (a) Since 1940 these branches of the industry had increased production and adjusted marketing programmes to meet urgent military and relief requirements;
- (b) All important commercial markets with the exception of the United States were restricted by international currency conditions;
- (c) Purchases of fish under the European Recovery Programme remained uncertain for 1948; and
- (d) In 1947, reduced landings and lower prices on the East Coast resulted in a decline in gross returns to fishermen despite purchases of fish for relief totalling \$4 millions. Meanwhile, employment alternatives had declined in the East Coast region.

After investigation, a decision was taken to recommend for the approval of Cabinet that the Board purchase 130,000 cases of the 1948 pack of the varieties referred to above, that the prescribed prices at which these commodities should be purchased from canners be the same as were paid in the Government's post-UNRRA relief programme of late 1947 and further that the canners be required to pay to the fishermen for raw fish prices comparable to those paid in 1947. This quantity of canned fish represents approximately 75% of the Government's purchase of the 1947 pack for both UNRRA and post-UNRRA needs. The recommendation was consistent with the broad principle of the Act quoted at the beginning of this report in that production, expanded for wartime and relief needs, was being assisted in a gradual step-down to levels more nearly in line with ordinary commercial demand.

On March 26th, 1948 Order in Council P.O. 1229, was passed authorizing the Board to undertake this support project under conditions as set out above. The remaining week of the 1947-48 fiscal year was devoted to preparations for launching the support programme. No expenditures for this purpose, however, were made before the end of the fiscal year.

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Broadly speaking, the programme involves purchasing, on a quota basis, from all canneries reporting production of the prescribed varieties during 1947. Individual quotas were fixed as a percentage of each cannery's 1947 pack, while the percentage used was determined from the relationship that the total purchase (190,000 cases) bore to the total 1947 production.

Canadian Commercial Corporation was appointed the agent of the Board for the purpose of taking delivery of and warehousing the Board's purchases.

It was the unanimous opinion of the Board, at this time, that conditions in other branches of the industry did not warrant recommendation of support action to Cabinet.

From July, 1947 until March 31, 1948, the Board held four Regular Meetings in Ottawa and three Special Meetings in Moncton, Winnipeg and Vancouver respectively. The Special Meetings were held for the purpose of establishing the three Regional Advisory Committees.

Expenditures 1947-48

During the fiscal year 1947-48 the following administrative expenses were incurred:

Salaries	-	\$19,852.88
Travelling Expenses	-	12,106.06
Printing and Stationery	-	2,027.93
Miscellaneous	-	<u>349.65</u>
		<u>\$34,336.54</u>

The administrative expenses of the Board are not by a vote in the Fisheries Estimates.

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Salaries	-	417,000.00
Travelling Expenses	-	12,100.00
Printing and Stationery	-	8,000.00
Telephone	-	200.00
	-	437,300.00

were incurred:

Expenditures 1951-52

establishing the three National Advisory Committees.

Woodrow respectively. The Special Meetings were held in Ottawa and three Special Meetings in Toronto.

From July, 1957 until March 31, 1958, the Board held four regular

support action to Cabinet.

conditions in other branches of the industry did not warrant recommendation

It was the unanimous opinion of the Board, at this time, that

for the purpose of testing delivery of and maintaining the Board's

Canadian Commercial Corporation was appointed two agents at the

total purchases (130,000 cases) were in the total 1957 production.

back, while the percentage used was determined from the relationship for the

1957. Individual quotas were fixed as a percentage of each company's 1957

from all companies reporting production of the prescribed quantities during

Presently speaking, the program involves purchasing on a quota basis.

